

Resolution No.: 16-777
Introduced: October 28, 2008
Adopted: November 25, 2008

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #09-237 to the FY09 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service
Emergency Medical Service Electronic Patient Care Reporting, \$1,595,000

Background

1. Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that a special appropriation: (a) may be made at any time after public notice by news release; (b) must state that the special appropriation is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency or to act without delay in the public interest; (c) must specify the revenues necessary to finance it; and (d) must be approved by no fewer than six members of the Council.
2. The County Executive recommended the following FY09 Operating Budget appropriation increase for the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$1,595,000	\$0	\$1,595,000	Consolidated Fire Tax District

3. The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) requires the replacement of paper patient care reporting systems with electronic systems. MIEMSS previously announced that paper reporting must be discontinued by December 31, 2008. MIEMSS currently anticipates eliminating data transfer from a paper process after January 1, 2010.
4. The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) currently uses a paper version of the Maryland Ambulance Incident System to manage clinical records. (Montgomery County is one of two jurisdictions in the State that still uses paper reporting.) The paper system is obsolete and does not allow MCFRS access to data for decision-making.

5. An Electronic Patient Care Reporting system (ePCR) is a paperless program that manages clinical records to keep staff informed of the status of each patient and improve accountability, timeliness, and reliability of patient care data. The ePCR will be far more efficient than the current paper system and will provide an easily accessible data source for MCFRS decision-making.
6. The County Executive recommended a special appropriation to the FY09 Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,595,000 for the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service and specified that the source of funds will be the Consolidated Fire Tax District.
7. The Executive originally estimated total ePCR project cost at about \$2.3 million. Of that amount, he intended to fund approximately \$870,000 for mobile computers and server hardware through short term financing (most likely a master lease) with installment payments to be funded from operating budgets in FY09 and future years.
8. During the Public Safety Committee's review, the Executive submitted an updated cost estimate that assumed a total project cost of \$2.63 million. Although the total special appropriation remains at \$1,595,000, the Executive added funding for an IT position and training to the list of items that it would fund. To accommodate the addition, he shifted funding for docking stations from the special appropriation to short term financing, bringing the total to be short term financed to \$1,040,000. This special appropriation includes \$188,000 to be used for an FY09 installment payment, if needed.
9. The public was notified by a news release, and a public hearing was held on November 18, 2008.
10. The Public Safety Committee reviewed this special appropriation on November 6 and 20, 2008, and recommends approval with certain amendments.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following action:

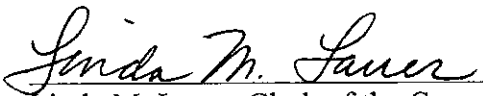
1. A special appropriation to the FY09 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$140,000	\$1,455,000	\$0	\$1,595,000	Consolidated Fire Tax District

This action is necessary to act without delay in the public interest.

This appropriation includes \$188,000 for a master lease payment, if required, in FY09. If any element of the ePCR system that would be funded under the master lease is purchased by or on behalf of the County before December 31, 2008, the first master lease payment must be paid in FY09. If any element of the ePCR system that would be funded under the master lease is purchased by or on behalf of the County after that date, the first master lease payment need not be paid until FY10. If any element of the ePCR system that would be funded under the master lease is purchased by or on behalf of the County after December 31, 2008, the Executive must not spend the \$188,000 appropriated in this resolution and allocated for the master lease payment and must allow that amount to revert to the Consolidated Fire Tax District fund balance.

This is a correct copy of Council action.


Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council